Calendar

Sunday, October 9
10:00 AM - "GOING TO THE SOURCES: AN INTRODUCTION TO UU PRINCIPLES" led by Al Nettleton.
Childcare and children's activities provided. We will meet at McConnell Hall across from Meriter General Hospital. (See detailed instructions elsewhere in this issue.)

Friday, October 14
5:30 p.m. - FISH DINNER CIRCLE will meet at Irish Waters Public House, 702 N. Whitney Way. Call Pat Watkins by Wednesday, Oct 12 to make your reservation.

Sunday, October 16
10:00 AM - "INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY: UU PRINCIPLE #1" led by Al Nettleton.
Childcare and children's activities provided. Meeting again at McConnell Hall.

Saturday, October 22
4:30 p.m. - PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING at Upham Woods.

Sunday, October 23
No meeting in Madison - retreat at Upham Woods.

Sunday, October 30
We hope to meet in our remodeled Meeting House! See next issue for details.

Saturday, October 29
7:30 PM - PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS meet at Pat Watkins', 2419 Norwood Place, to read Edward Albee's A Delicate Balance, or Alan Ackbourne's Bedroom Farce. Phone 262-7960 (days) for information or directions.

Fall Parish Meeting
Submit Agenda Items Now

Our regular Fall Parish Meeting has been set for Nov. 13. This is a week earlier than usual to avoid conflicts with a civic event in which a number of Prairie people participate.

Any member who wishes the parish to discuss a particular item should submit the item in writing to Mary Mullen or secretary-designee Norma Briggs. The item can then be placed on the agenda of the parish meeting. Deadline for submission is Sunday, Oct. 16.

If you have a concern that you aren't sure needs to go on the agenda, feel free to discuss it with the president or other members first.

Once the publication deadline (Oct. 16) is past, an item can be brought to the parish only if 10 members request it at the parish meeting.

Currently, the fall parish meeting will deal with the 1989 operating budget, revision of by-laws (primarily committee responsibilities and membership provisions).

DEADLINE for the next PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16. Submit notices for the period October 20 to November 3.
All R.E. children are asked to come to 3 special classes coming up. We will be meeting in rooms 3 and 4 at McConnell Hall. Directions are given elsewhere in this newsletter.

OCTOBER 9

There will be a special Harvest Celebration for all of the Prairie children. Come and share the harvest with your friends. Bring something to share with others as part of a harvest meal.

OCTOBER 16

This will be a special UN Day celebration. If you have anything from a foreign country that you would like to share with the group bring it along.

OCTOBER 23

No Prairie meeting in Madison. We hope to see you at Upham Woods.

OCTOBER 30

This meeting will be taking place wherever the adults are meeting so keep your eyes on Prairie Fire. We will have a Halloween Celebration on the 30th. Come in your costume if you have one. We will tell stories, play games and make masks.

NURSERY CARE

There will be child care available each of these Sundays. Come to the meeting space set aside for the older kids and we will direct you to where you shall be meeting. Sue or Yasmine will be looking forward to seeing you.

PARENT/TEACHER COFFEEES

The coffees that have been planned for parents and teachers have been postponed until we are in our building. Please watch Prairie Fire for the re-scheduled dates.

YRUU

A meeting is scheduled for October 9, 6 - 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Meeting House, 900 University Bay Dr. Watch for the YRUU Newsletter for details of the program.

A retreat is scheduled for the weekend of 14-15-16 at Camp Upham Woods at Wisconsin Dells. For information call Colleen McDonald at First Unitarian (233-9774) or Arnie Clay, evenings 831-1784. New members are welcome. Call our YRUU advisor Nancy Lynch for information and concerns between 9 AM and 9 PM at 244-3906.

It is that time of year again! But this is no ordinary year! We are even going to be asking for pledges to support the "new" building before we have seen the finished product. From all reports, though, and several Prairie members have been inspecting it almost daily) the result is going to be something we will all be pleased with.

The Finance committee has worked hard to pare down the proposed budget for next year, but the effect of the new mortgage can't be hidden. It shows in both the total budget (31% higher than last year) and in the amount we hope to raise through pledges ($27,000). The details are shown here so that you can review them. Obviously, we are all going to have to dig a bit deeper in our pockets. The canvass will start after a potluck on Sunday evening, October 9, at Pat Cautley's home. In the meantime, statements have been sent out to let you know the status of your 1988 pledges (send any checks to Barb Park, W10804 Woodway Way, Poinette, WI 53955). And the Finance Committee is working hard on other ways of earning money.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1989

OPERATING EXPENSES

PROGRAM

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HOUSING AND PROPERTY

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### Budget, continued from page two

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<td>Contingencies</td>
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**GRAND TOTAL**

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<td>(1988 Total was $24,469)</td>
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### Social Concerns

#### WALKATHON FOR EL SALVADOR

Madison Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP) and Community Action on Latin America (CALA) plus many others are sponsoring a 10 kilometer walkathon on Saturday, Oct. 15 to raise money for projects in El Salvador. Funds will help Madison's sister city and other communities in reconstructing their homes in rural areas hardest hit by the war, agricultural production, neighborhoods providing health care and education in the urban slums of San Salvador, and other projects. Alice and Lee Bullen will be walking in the event. Call them at 838-8055 to pledge.

#### URGENT

UUSC has sent out a plea for emergency relief to Jamaica following the devastation left by Hurricane Gilbert. There is a "partner project" in Kingston, so UUSC will be able to administer aid immediately. Quick action is needed to forestall more deaths from lack of shelter, food or clean water.

Make checks payable to UUSC and send to UUSC, 78 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.

#### WORLD FOOD DAY

The Response to Hunger Network is sponsoring its 5th annual World Food Day on Friday, October 14. They will distribute food to not-for-profit agencies who serve the poor and hungry in the Madison area, as well as individuals in need of food. Last year over 6 tons of food were distributed.

The distribution will be kicked off by a press conference at 10:30. Prairie's Social Action committee will be a co-sponsor. We want to send volunteers in the morning to help set-up for a few hours. Please consider this if you are available. We could do worse than show compassion for the hungry. Call Judy Skog at 273-4813 for details or Betty Jallings at 835-3746.

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### R. E. Director Resigns, New Director Sought

The R.E. Committee regretfully announces the resignation of Alison McKee as our R.E. director. Alison has done an excellent job in coordinating our program for the past two years. Alison says, "It has been a wonderful professional experience working with Prairie's religious education committee and all the children who are part of Prairie's religious education program. At this time, however, I need to devote more of my time to personal and family concerns." All of us who have worked with Alison have gained from her sharing and concern about children. You will be missed "downstairs, Alison.

The R.E. Committee is advertising the position and taking applications. We ask your assistance in making recommendations to us of individuals within the Prairie community or outside who might be interested and qualified for this position. It is vital to our religious education for our children--our future.

Please call Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053, for further information. Applications are due October 21.

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As UUs we often encounter difficulty in explaining to others what we believe. Going into a series of programs on the Principles causes me to spend quite a bit of time thinking in terms of abstract philosophical language. Alison McKee sent me some materials from a new grade 3 to 6 curriculum and it includes the following wonderful version of our Principles:

--Al Nettleton

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**Continued on page four**
Social Concerns, continued from page three

ECUMENICAL PEACE EVENT

A family peace festival will be held Sunday, October 9, at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, 1501 Gilbert Road, from 1:30-5:00 p.m. Six churches have worked together to organize this special event which will include peace activities, workshops, a balloon launch, shirt painting, crafts and non-competitive games for all ages.

The Peace Festival is being organized as a community-wide event by representatives from the following churches: Bethany United Methodist, First Unitarian Society, Madison Society of Friends, Orchard Ridge Church of Christ, St. Andrews Episcopal, and St. Paul's University Catholic Center.

CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Midwest District UU annual meeting will be held at the Bloomington, IL Unitarian church, Nov. 11, 12, and 13. Reservation forms for the meeting will be available soon.

Special guests for the weekend include: Joan Kahn Schneider, minister of the East Shore UU church in Mentor, Ohio; Mark Belletini, minister of Starr King Unitarian church, Hayward, Calif., chair of the UUA Hymnbook Commission; Judy Green, UUA vice-president for communications development, former organist at Milwaukee First Unitarian Church; Marita Brake, balladeer, songwriter, storyteller and historian. She will share her love of the prairie through humorous, original and contemporary songs which will cause each of you to reflect about the paths each of us take to get to our own spiritual core.

Church banners may be displayed at the meeting if brought by 10:00 p.m., Friday, the 11th. Clarise Jefferson should be notified by Nov. 1 by writing to her at 205 Fairway Drive, Bloomington 61701 (309)662-7274.

Attendees in need of childcare or home hospitality should notify Karen Ritacco, 5 Kensington Circle, Bloomington 61704 (309) 662-4217 by October 22.

Denominational Affairs

ANNE Urbanski, Chair

The UUSC awarding Prairie a Banner Society Award in recognition of contributions totalling 3% or more of our annual budget, during the fiscal year ending 3/3/88. Along with this letter we received a red "1988" patch which can be sewn onto Prairie's banner.

UUSC Holiday cards are now available! There are five styles this year: a winter landscape scene with the message "Peace" inside ($7 for 12 cards); a set of three Indian textile designs ($7 for 12); Toby Williams' paper-cut art "World Harmony cards ($7 for 10); African textile designs ($7 for 12); and "Mother and Child" cards ($6 for 12). I will take orders through November 1; we can pay UUSC after the cards have arrived. If interested in ordering, please see me or call me at home (271-1349, after 6 p.m.

UUA has sent materials to help us organize discussion programs about the three Study resolutions adopted at the 1988 General Assembly: The AIDS crisis; protecting the ecosystem; and economic conversion for peace and human needs. Our comments on each issue are due in Boston by March 1, 1989. We possibly might want to consider doing joint programming with First Society on these topics. More information will follow soon. Anyone who has expertise or special interest in any of these topics and would like to lead or help lead a discussion group, please let me know. These topics - as a group - could be done as a "mini-lay-ministry."

Anne Urbanski 271-1349

Any child who would like to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF please call Alison McKee (238-3302). Since our building is not ready I am reluctant to get lots of boxes unless I know we have children who want to do UNICEF.

DIRECTIONS TO McCONNELL HALL FOR MEETINGS OF OCTOBER 9 and 16: McConnell Hall is at Brooks and Mound Streets, just opposite Meriter General Hospital and the old Longfellow School. Enter on Brooks St., the door nearest the corner (just South of the door for Bolz Auditorium), turn left and follow signs for Prairie UU. Children will meet in rooms 3 and 4, adults in room 8. Parking should be easy Sunday morning, most likely south of Mound St.
More Social Concerns

The Wisconsin Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse is offering a workshop of special interest to women and men who have experienced any kind of abuse in their childhoods (emotional, sexual or physical) or who have lived in families affected by chemical dependency.

To a Safer Place: Coming Home To Our Bodies
Saturday, November 5, 1988
9 AM - 3 PM, St. John's Lutheran Church,

JACKSON BROWNE BENEFIT CONCERT

Jackson Browne will appear October 10 at 8 PM at the Madison Civic Center at a benefit concert for the Christic Institute. The Christic Institute is an interfaith public interest law firm and research center. Currently, its attention is focused on the Oran/Contra scandal, providing the public with information on drug running, arms smuggling, and national security issues which have not been revealed in Congressional or independent investigations. Tickets are $18.50 and $22.50 through Ticketron outlets.

SOURCES

Are you looking for an Alternative to Masters of the Universe or Barbie or My Little Pony this year? Check out the following catalogs:

1) Animal Town Game Co. P.O. Box 2002
Santa Barbara, CA 93120; 805-682-7343.
Cooperative and non-competitive board games for ages 3 and up, children's books and tapes, books on parenting and cooperation, and much more.

2) Music for Little People Box 1460, Redway, CA 95560; 800-346-4445
Cassettes, videos, and musical instruments for toddlers and children. Want some Rock 'n Roll with acceptable lyrics or a videotape promoting peace, or Raffi or Tickle Tune Typhoon. There are loads of great videotapes.

Child safety products from board games to toddler-sized bike helmets.

After Upham Woods on Sunday 10/23, is anybody interested in visiting a real Indian trading post near the Dells. (NOT the one on the main drag)? They have a great museum for a small charge, plus items to buy (jewelry, moccasins, trinkets, etc.). Talk to Judy Skog for details.

Page five 10/4 '88

UNDERSTANDING:
The Most Important Grade

Tips at Report Card Time

If there is a problem at school:

• SIT DOWN with your child and look over the report card.
• PRAISE YOUR CHILD. Find at least one good thing: attendance, no tardies.
• BE CALM! Let your child tell you about his poor grades.
• ASK how you can help your child do better.
• ASK what your child can do to make better grades.
• MAKE A PLAN with your child's teacher and your child to do better.

If you have questions or need help, please contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor, or principal.

For more information on parenting skills, contact the Wisconsin Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, 1045 E. Dayton St., Room 202D, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 256-3374

In Cooperation with Wisconsin PTA

Guest editors for this issue of Prairie Fire are Alice and Leland Bullen.
For eight years, I have published the HOMECOMINGS TRAVEL DIRECTORY so that UUs could meet and exchange ideas.

If HOMECOMINGS is to survive and to continue to strengthen our bonds, we must have **MORE HOSTS IN EVERY STATE**. CA. and MA. top the list with 30 hosts in each state; other states have considerably fewer; one or two states have none.

Through this communiqué (I am seeking to make you aware of the service, and trying to gain **SOLID HOST COVERAGE IN EVERY STATE** and in all the provinces of Canada)

**DON'T FAIL OUR TRAVELERS WHO WANT TO MEET YOU. WON'T YOU CONSIDER BECOMING A HOST AND WELCOMING YOUR FELLOW UUS INTO YOUR HOME?**

For Information and a registration form, PLEASE WRITE:
Ann Thorpe, HOMECOMINGS, Box 1545, New Milford, CT 06776 USA

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**Repeated by Request**

If you are in grades 7 to 12, you are invited to join Y R U U.
Youth group members may be affiliated with either Prairie U.U. or First Unitarian Society. There are two groups - the junior high group includes 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. The senior high group includes 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.

Looking Ahead...

**April 29th, 1989.** The Playreaders will be sponsoring a bus trip to the Milwaukee Repertory Theater for the 5:00 PM performance of Sean O'Casey's **Juno and the Paycock**, followed by dinner.

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**CHANING-MURRAY**

Drop in for the Wednesday night dinners on the Memorial Union Terrace. We meet at 6:00 PM and are usually done by 7:00 or 7:15. Look for us near the Union Theatre steps.

On October 20, we will be hosting the **UU Young Adult Peace Caravan** that is crossing the US this fall. There are five men and three women involved. They'll join us for lunch at the Union on the 20th, and will need home hospitality that night. For further information, call Cinda LaMar at 238-9884.

**Calling All Singers**

Aileen Nettleton and Barb Park have volunteered to organize and conduct a **Prairie Choir** this year. At least one performance per month is planned. Contact them after services if you are interested in taking part in the oral music tradition at Prairie.

Oct. 15: "Pennies from Heaven": District Leadership Conference, Naperville, IL.

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**Upham Woods Retreat**

October 21, 22, & 23

Send in your registration forms now! Newcomers are especially invited. Many Prairie folk regard this as the high point of the church year. Scheduled events include:

- **Fri. Oct. 21** - potluck dinner; games for all ages (including charades, with instructions that make it faster and more fun; jigsaw puzzle assembly; and whatever else you like to do. Bring along your favorite games and pastimes and share them with the rest of Prairie.

- **Sat. Oct. 22** - nature walks, canoeing (with instruction for those who want/need it); orienteering, discussion groups on living with foreigners and on Prairie; a poetry session; volley ball; capture the flag; and much more. In the evening - the renowned Prairie Talent Show (start polishing your acts now!); campfire singing, and singing at the local tavern (ja, das ist ein schnitzlebank...).

- **Sun. Oct. 23** - Our traditional key log ceremony; kazoo band, and much more.

Members and Friends are reminded that **we do have some financial assistance funds available** for those who want to attend but cannot afford the full price. If you need some help, contact Jack Jallings, who is accepting registrations - **confidence will be maintained**. The deadline of October 5 for submission of registration forms and fees announced in the last Prairie Fire is not absolutely inflexible, but it would help Jack Jallings and others on the Retreat Committee a great deal if registration forms were received by then.

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R. E. CORNER

Registration for all R.E. Classes is planned for October 16th after the service and classes. Please have your parents come downstairs and complete the registration process. It should only take a few minutes.

We are not yet sure when the building will be available so we do not have a start date for R.E. yet. Watch the Prairie Fire for the startup announcement.

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Last year I had a discount card for Pizza Hut which I used after Prairie on Sundays. These are daily special discounts or 10% off on anything. Karith's gymnastic club, Mad Town Twisters is selling them for $5. If you are interested, call me at 249-7075. (They are good for one year.) Arline Ferguson.